

STALLIONS FOR NORTHERN CHEYENNE INDIANS.

LETTER

FROM

THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY,

TRANSMITTING

An estimate from the Secretary of the Interior of appropriation for the purchase of stallions for the Northern Cheyenne Indians, Tongue River Agency, Mont.

JANUARY 9, 1889.—Referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs and ordered to be printed.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT, *January 8, 1889.*

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith, for the consideration of Congress, copy of a communication from the Secretary of the Interior of the 5th instant, submitting an estimate for an appropriation of \$3,600, for the purchase of twelve stallions for the use and benefit of the Northern Cheyenne Indians of the Tongue River Agency, Mont.

Respectfully, yours,

C. S. FAIRCHILD,
Secretary.

THE SPEAKER, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
Washington, January 5, 1889.

SIR: I have the honor to inclose herewith, for presentation to Congress, in accordance with the provisions of section 2 of the act of July 7, 1884 (23 Stat. L., 254), copy of a communication of the 4th instant, from the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, and accompanying copy of a letter of United States Indian Agent R. L. Upshaw, of the Tongue River Agency, Mont., relative to the purchase of twelve stallions for the use and benefit of the Northern Cheyenne Indians of said agency.

The Commissioner believing, in view of the facts stated, that the Indians would be substantially benefited by the purchase of these animals, recommends that the appropriation for the next fiscal year for the Northern Cheyennes and Arapahoes be increased in the sum of \$3,600

to be expended under the direction of the Secretary of the Interior in the purchase of the said stallions for issue to the Northern Cheyenne Indians at said agency.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully,

WM. F. VILAS,
Secretary.

The SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,
Washington, D. C., January 4, 1889.

SIR: I have the honor to inclose herewith, in duplicate, a letter received from R. L. Upshaw, United States Indian agent at Tongue River Agency, Mont., dated November 24 last in which he recommends that Congress be called upon for an appropriation in the sum of \$3,600 for the purchase of twelve stallions for the use and benefit of the Northern Cheyenne Indians at his agency. The agent states that he is led to make this recommendation for the following reasons, viz:

These people are and have been accustomed to the rearing and care of horses and understand how to do it in their country. The country is admirably adapted for the purpose. They had, as stated in the statistics accompanying my last annual report, 932 horses, most of them mares, of a small but wiry and hardy breed, which, if properly crossed, would, with their handling, produce excellent saddle-horses, which character of horses will soon be in great demand in this country, as most of the extensive breeders are devoting their attention almost exclusively to breeding for the heavy draught horse. The Indian horses, when bred up, will be in demand for the reason also that their horses are handled from colts, while many horses raised on the range are not handled until they are three or four years old, when they are often spoiled or injured in breaking and are not so safe as the Indian-reared horses. There would always be some market for the horses, whereas there is scarcely any market at this remote point for any agricultural products. With the very best management some considerable period of time must elapse before these Indians can be made self-supporting by their efforts at agriculture, without a better market. The increase of their horse herds may soon become a source of revenue. In the absence of ordinary buyers at remunerative prices, periodic public sales or fairs could be held, which would induce buyers from a distance, and thus these Indians provided with money to purchase necessities, and the Government would be relieved of the duty which now exists of supplying them with nearly every article of subsistence and most of their clothing.

I have quoted largely from the agent's letter to show the advantages to be derived from the expenditure contemplated, and, believing that the said Indians would be benefited substantially in the manner proposed, I respectfully recommend that the appropriation for the Northern Cheyennes and Arapahoes for the next fiscal year be increased in the sum of \$3,600, to be expended under the direction of the Secretary of the Interior in the purchase of twelve stallions for issue to the Indians named.

Very respectfully,

JOHN J. ENRIGHT,
Acting Commissioner.

The SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.

UNITED STATES INDIAN SERVICE,
Tongue River Agency, Ashland, Mont., November 24, 1888.

SIR: In view of the approaching assembling of Congress I have the honor to make the following suggestion, with a view to its adoption by the Department and submission to Congress for its action thereon, viz, that an appropriation be made to

purchase twelve good stallions for the Indians of this agency at a cost not to exceed \$3,600, to be kept for service on the mares of these Indians or issued to the Indians under such rules and conditions as may be prescribed by the honorable Commissioner of Indian Affairs. I am led to make this suggestion for the following reasons:

These people are and have been accustomed to the rearing and care of horses and understand how to do it in this country. The country is admirably adapted for the purpose. They had, as stated in the statistics accompanying my last annual report, 932 horses, most of them mares of a small but wiry and hardy breed, which, if properly crossed, would, with their handling, produce excellent saddle-horses, which character of horses will soon be in great demand in this country, as most of the extensive breeders are devoting their attention almost exclusively to breeding for the heavy draught horse. The Indian horses, when bred up, will be in demand for the reason also that their horses are handled from colts, while many horses raised on the range are not handled until they are three or four years old, when they are often spoiled or injured in breaking and are not so safe as the Indian-reared horses.

There would always be some market for the horses, whereas there is scarcely any market at this remote point for any agricultural product.

With the very best management some considerable period of time must elapse before these Indians can be made self-supporting by their efforts at agriculture without a better market.

The increase of their horse herds may very soon become a source of revenue.

In the absence of ordinary buyers at remunerative prices public sales or fairs could be held which would induce buyers from a distance, and thus these Indians provided with money to purchase necessities, the Government would be relieved of the duty which now exists of supplying them with nearly every article of subsistence and most of their clothing.

While every incentive should be given, and encouragement offered to advance them in agricultural pursuits, both with a view to their producing a portion of the means of their support by their crops, and also to the gradually accustoming them to fixed habitations and the bettering of the same, yet I feel satisfied that the tax-payers who have to feed and clothe these people are restive under this burden, and are impatient that every possible means shall be used to hasten the time of its removal.

I am impressed with the belief that the adoption of my suggestion will expedite the arrival of that time.

Very respectfully submitted.

Your obedient servant,

R. L. UPSHAW,
United States Indian Agent.

HON. JOHN H. OBERLY,
Commissioner Indian Affairs, Washington, D. C.